

# AVE MARIA CHAPEL

AT DOMINO'S FARMS

AUGUST 2018

## BULLETIN

All are invited to make the  
*F*irst *S*aturday *D*evotions - as an  
*A*ct of *R*eparation to the  
*I*mmaculate *H*eart of *M*ary  
at the Domino's Farms Chapel, Lobby C  
Every First Saturday

- Opportunity for all the elements will be present...
- \* Reception of Communion (Masses at 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.)
  - \* Confession available after both Masses
  - \* Recitation of the five decade Rosary (between Masses)
  - \* Meditating for 15 min. on the Mysteries of the Rosary

**Saturday, September 1**  
**Saturday, October 6**  
**Saturday, November 3**  
**Saturday, December 1**

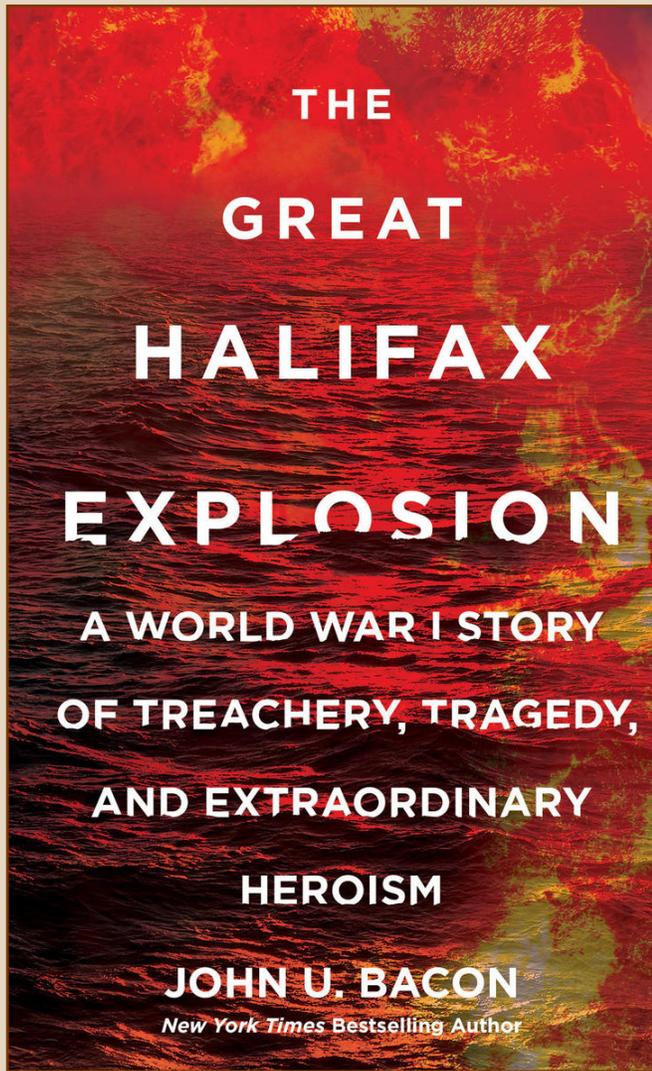
Refreshments and fellowship will be available between the Masses

AN OUTREACH TO THE ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI COMMUNITY FROM  
**AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY**



# The Great Halifax Explosion:

A World War I Story of Treachery, Tragedy, and Extraordinary Heroism



The astonishing true story of history's largest manmade explosion before the atomic bomb and its world-changing aftermath, from acclaimed New York Times bestselling author John U. Bacon.

Brooklyn, NY, December 1, 1917: the freighter Mont Blanc sets sail overloaded with a staggering six-million pounds of high explosives, bound for the trenches of the Great War. Five days later, as it entered the lively port city of Halifax, Mont-Blanc's deadly cargo erupted in the most powerful explosion ever visited on a human population, save for Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It vaporized Mont Blanc in one-fifteenth of a second; leveled the surrounding city, and created a 35-foot tsunami. Most astounding of all, however, were the incredible tales of survival and heroism of those who lived and selflessly threw themselves into urgent rescue work that saved thousands.

A horrified world responded: just hours after the explosion, Boston alone sent two trains and two ships filled with doctors, medicine, and money, transforming Canada and the United States from longtime adversaries to allies. Mesmerizing and inspiring, Bacon's deeply researched narrative brings to life the tragedy, bravery, and surprising afterlife of one of the most dramatic events of modern times.

The most destructive moment of World War I occurred far from the Western Front, in Canada, where an explosion blew a city apart but propelled two nations together. John Bacon, a superbly talented historian and story teller, has rescued from obscurity an astonishing episode of horror and heroism.

*-George F. Will, Pulitzer-Prize winning Syndicated Columnist*

"The most significant contribution of Christianity has been the presentation of Jesus, whose sacrifice on our behalf reconciled us to the Father. Within that statement, a number of truths are embedded, including that human beings are created by God and worth saving. We have a God who rescues us. Throughout history, since the Incarnation, we see examples of Christian concern for the individual, showing that we bear responsibility for others. A stunning, but often-overlooked, example of this is the response to the explosion of the SS Mont Blanc in Halifax harbor in 1917. Acclaimed author John U. Bacon has written a beautiful and brilliant book about the disaster and its aftermath, entitled *The Great Halifax Explosion*. We interviewed him twice about the book, and his second interview was deemed our #1 interview of 2017."

*-Al Kresta, Host of Ave Maria Radio, journalist and author*

**John U. Bacon.** is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *Three and Out*; *Fourth and Long*; and *Endzone*. He appears often on NPR and national television, and teaches at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and the University of Michigan. He lives in Ann Arbor, with his wife and son.

# Fr. Bill Spencer's Road to the Priesthood

William Ward (John) Spencer III (John is my Confirmation name and coincidentally, St. John Bosco and St. John of the Cross are my favorite saints.)

I was born and raised in Philadelphia with one sister, who is now deceased. I attended Catholic grade and high school.

My call to the Priesthood began at the end of fourth grade, when I almost died in a swimming accident at an Altar Server picnic. My nun-teacher said that maybe the Lord was saving me for something special later in life.

In high school, I joined the Vocations Club and started going to daily Mass in the middle of my junior year. At the end of my senior year, I went into the seminary at the Catholic University in Washington, DC. I struggled with my call to the Priesthood. I left the seminary in September of 1957 against the recommendation of my Superior.

As I was leaving the seminary, I went to the chapel. While there, I thought that perhaps I should not leave the seminary, but then I realized I had prayed and discerned much in preparation for my leaving. I told the Lord that if He wanted me to come back to the seminary, He would have to call me later. I never once looked back or regretted my decision to leave.

I went back to Philadelphia, taught in public school, and was drafted into the Army. While on leave, at the airport preparing to go back to Ft. Benning GA, I met Peg, the sister of one of my fellow soldiers. I wrote to her, we dated and we were married in November of 1959. We were married for 44.5 years.

We were regular attendees at our local parish, as well as being involved the Charismatic Renewal and Cursillo Movement. It was involvement in these movements that kept us in touch with people in Ann Arbor. Over 10 years of visiting, we concluded in prayer that we should move our family here. I worked for Bechtel Power Company and later Detroit Edison (DTE Emery). We were active in Christ the King Parish. We have three children, a son and two daughters, and six grandchildren. The older of the two daughters died in 2014.

In 2002, Peg was diagnosed with cancer. In March 2004, the doctor told us he was going to stop chemotherapy. He told me privately that Peg had less than a year to



live. I prayed and asked the Lord if He wanted me to get married again, stay single, teach Religious Education or become a priest. (I was shocked that the priesthood was one of the options I should consider, since once having left the seminary, I never looked back.)

Peg died in July 2004. The call to the priesthood was still in my heart. I asked the Lord to send three people who would confirm that I should consider the priesthood. About twenty minutes later, I met a young man outside the church. During our conversation, I encouraged him to think about the seminary, he said that I should consider the seminary. That was the first answer to my prayer.

On Thursday of the same week, a Deacon with no previous discussion on the subject asked me if I would consider the priesthood. That was number two. On Friday, I went to dinner with a couple, whom I knew well. During dessert, the wife “out of the blue” said, “have you ever considered becoming a priest?” I believed my prayer had been answered.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Ave Maria Chapel at Domino's Farms Your Support is Vital

Thank you for your support of the Chapel. As you may have noticed, we have refurbished the seat back and are in the process of replacing the seat cushions. This will enhance the beauty of the Chapel for years to come.

Your support of the Chapel operations is appreciated. The Chapel support for the first seven months of 2018 has been \$28,775 as compared to \$31,858 in 2017. The annual monetary contributions in recent years have covered approximately 45% of the \$145,000 annual operating expenses to run the Chapel. Thank you again for your support and we ask for your continued prayers for the Priests and all who visit the Chapel.

If you are able to contribute on a regular basis we have many options listed below to assist you. Please visit the Chapel website by following the below link.

<http://dominosfarms.com/AMUchapel>

Text giving- Simply Text to 734-212-5119 with the amount that you would like to give.

Thank you and have a Blessed day.

*(Fr. Bill Spencer Continued from Page 3)*

I spent time praying, thinking, and discerning. After attending a meeting of prospective seminarians for the Diocese of Lansing, the Bishop said I would not be accepted because I was too old, 72, and the cost of the seminary training. I mentioned I would pay the tuition myself and he agreed to reconsider and let me know. While waiting for an answer, I enrolled in Sacred Heart Major Seminary and took classes in Theology as a Lay Student. My previous seminary courses helped me do that.

I received a formal rejection notice from the Diocese of Lansing. My professor suggested that I contact the Diocese of Saginaw. Bishop Carlson met with me and said he would put my question on the altar and pray for me. A week later, he told me the Lord said, "Yes."

I studied at Sacred Heart for two years and was ordained a Deacon in June 2007. In December 2007 (the Feast of St. John of the Cross), I was ordained a Priest. I've served as Pastoral Administrator and then Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Huron Parish and St. Anthony Parish, and Holy Name of Mary Parish, in Harbor Beach, MI, until June, 2017. I then retired and become a Senior Priest of the Diocese of Saginaw. I returned to my home parish of Christ the King in Ann Arbor, at the request of my family, who wanted me closer to them at this time of my life.

They were right because it gives me many opportunities to see and be near them as well as to near and serve my friends and fellow parishioners at Christ the King and all the friendly, dedicated, and supportive attendees at the Ave Maria Chapel at Dominos Farms. I am truly blessed.

## Chapel Schedule

### MASS:

Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.  
Noon & 5:00 p.m.

Sat 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Catholic Men's Mass, Tues 7:00 a.m.  
followed by breakfast and presentation

### CONFESSION:

Mon – Fri 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,  
11:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Sat 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

### DEVOTIONS:

Morning and Evening Prayer:

Mon – Fri 8:30 a.m. & 4:45 p.m.

Adoration: Sat 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Rosary: Mon – Fri 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

